

Chief Biele joined the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District in October of 1959. He was promoted to Captain in 1964 and after several promotions was named Chief in 1983. During his tenure, he established an aggressive educational program to enhance the management potential of his staff as well as the establishment of an In-house District Fitness Program. This fitness program led to the District's participation in the International Firefighter Combat Challenge, in which the Creve Coeur District continually demonstrates its commitment to athletic excellence.

Not only has he distinguished himself with an impressive career with the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District, he has long been a civic leader in his community. His work with the Creve Coeur Lions Club, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Dream Factory, the Missouri Mules, the Backstoppers, the Missouri Children's Burn Camp and the Salvation Army, stand as a testament to his tireless efforts to serve the community and the less fortunate.

In addition to his many charitable and civic contributions, Chief Biele has provided leadership and expertise to several professional organizations, including: the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs Association, the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association, and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Numerous accomplishments and contributions to professional organizations highlighted his long service with the Creve Coeur Fire Protection District. Among these are: 1978 Firefighter of the Year Award, the 1981 Lion of the Year Award, the 1997 Creve Coeur—Olivette Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Businessperson of the Year, member of the Board of Governors for the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chief Association, Co-Chairman of the St. Louis County Fire and Police Memorial Committee and Chairman of the Central County 911 Chiefs Operating Committee.

Again, Mr. Speaker I hope you will join me in congratulating and thanking Chief Biele for his service to the residents and businesses of Creve Coeur. He is truly a great humanitarian, mentor, leader, and citizen. His efforts are indeed an inspiration to us all.

HONORING JAMES GRIFFIN, JOHN MERCADO AND VERNON MICHEL

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2000

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three heroes from my district: James Griffin, John Mercado, and Vernon Michel. Recently, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Griffin were presented with a Medal of Valor from the Saint Paul police department; Gertrude Michel, the widow of Mr. Michel, accepted the award on his behalf.

Fifty years ago, these three police officers selflessly risked their lives in pursuit of a man who had robbed a liquor store, and in the process fatally shot one of their colleagues and wounded another. The suspect ran into a deserted building. After the building had been

tear-gassed, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Michel volunteered to go inside to apprehend him.

It has been said that courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear. I applaud these men for their willingness to put their fear aside, to risk their own lives to protect the lives of others. Although this event took place fifty years ago, their courageous actions serve as an inspiration to those serving in the police force today.

I have included, for my colleague's review, an article from the December 16, 1999 edition of the Saint Paul Pioneer Press, which describes the heroic actions of these three men.

HONORS FOR POLICE HEROES

(By Amy Mayron)

St. Paul police award the department's highest commendation to three officers for their bravery 50 years ago. "Good work should never go unrecognized," says the police chief.

Fifty years ago, three St. Paul police officers volunteered to storm a dark, tear-gas-filled house to find a man who had robbed a liquor store and fatally shot another police officer.

On Wednesday, the three were honored for that act with the department's Medal of Valor.

James Giffin, 82, and John Mercado, 77, who both retired in 1983, received the medal at an awards luncheon in St. Paul. The widow of Vernon Michel, who retired in 1978 and died in 1982, accepted the award for her husband.

Only 28 officers have received the department's Medal of Valor since its inception in 1965. The last medal was given in 1997. Last summer, Police Chief William Finney and people inside and outside the police department began talking about honoring the three officers for their heroism in 1949.

Finney, who grew up in St. Paul and followed a family legacy into the police force, knew the three officers throughout most of his life.

"Good work should never go unrecognized," Finney said. "Time shouldn't matter when good work is done. It's a minor thing that we let 50 years pass."

On the afternoon of Sept. 10, 1949, Oliver Crutcher of St. Paul robbed a liquor store at 365 University Ave. He ran from the store with police not far behind, and gunshots were exchanged. No one was injured, and the robber got away.

But at about 7 p.m. that day, police received a tip that Crutcher was hiding in a house at 324 St. Anthony Ave. Police surrounded the building, and the suspect ran from the house firing gunshots, killing Detective Allen Lee, 38, and wounding another officer.

Police searched the neighborhood, often kicking in the doors of residences. At about 10 p.m., they got a tip that Crutcher was hiding in a building on Rondo Avenue, where Interstate 94 now runs. By that point in the manhunt, nearly 3,000 people had crowded the scene, upset about the police raids being conducted while looking for the suspect.

After tear-gassing the building, Griffin, Michel and Mercado volunteered to go inside to flush out the suspect. They went in shooting, and by the time they got to the suspect, several other officers had joined them.

Crutcher died of 12 gunshot wounds.

On Wednesday, Mercado, Griffin and Michel's widow, Gertrude Michel, smiled as Finney presented them with medals and a

plaque. Michel and Mercado humbly accepted the awards and quietly thanked everyone at the luncheon.

Griffin, who retired as deputy police chief, thanked his family for supporting him throughout his career and then briefly talked about what it was like to be a rookie cop in the 1950s and the first African-American officer to join the department.

"I don't know what to say. I'm overwhelmed," he said. "When I joined the department, I never thought I'd be standing here today."

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2000 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 11

10 a.m.

Budget

To resume hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001.

SD-608

FEBRUARY 22

9:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Capitol Police Board, Library of Congress, and the Government Printing Office.

SD-116

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the Administration's effort to review approximately 40 million acres of national forest lands for increased protection.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 23

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for Indian programs.

SR-485

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on activities of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK).

SR-253

10:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-406

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the White River National Forest Plan.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 24

9 a.m.
Small Business
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2001 for the Small Business Administration.

SR-428A

10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 2001 for the Army Corps of Engineers.

SD-406

Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the the Department of Commerce.

SD-138

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S.1722, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any 1 State; H.R.3063, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State; and S.1950, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to ensure the orderly development of coal, coalbed methane, natural gas, and oil in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming and Montana.

SD-366

FEBRUARY 29

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of Justice.

SD-192

2:30 p.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending committee business.

SR-485

MARCH 1

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on the National Association of Public Administrators' Report on Bureau of Indian Affairs Management Reform.

SR-485

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendation of the Disabled American Veterans.
345 Cannon Building

MARCH 2

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on legislative recommendations of the Jewish War Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Blinded Veterans Association, and the Non Commissioned Officers Association.
345 Cannon Building

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Department of State.

S-146, Capitol

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the United States Forest Service's proposed revisions to the regulation governing National Forest Planning.

SD-366

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Retired Enlisted Association, Gold Star Wives of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Air Force Sergeants Association, and the Fleet Reserve Association.
345 Cannon Building

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Naturalization Service, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-192

MARCH 15

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
345 Cannon Building

MARCH 21

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
S-146, Capitol

MARCH 22

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Retired Officers Association, American Ex-Prisoners of War, AMVETS, and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.
345 Cannon Building

MARCH 23

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2001 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
S-146, Capitol

MARCH 29

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S.1967, to make technical corrections to the status of certain land held in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to take certain land into trust for that Band.
SR-485

APRIL 5

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S.612, to provide for periodic Indian needs assessments, to require Federal Indian program evaluations.
SR-485

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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APRIL 19

SEPTEMBER 26

CANCELLATIONS

9:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

MARCH 15

Indian Affairs

Veterans' Affairs

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on the proposed Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by hearings on S.611, to provide for administrative procedures to extend Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

SR-485

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the Legislative recommendation of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

SR-485